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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-eighth session
7-18 March 1994
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Djénébou Kaba (Côte d'Ivoire)

Chapter ___

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its thirty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 18 March 1994. The Commission held ... meetings.

2. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. In his statement he emphasized the importance of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission and the preparations for the Conference in Beijing for sustainable development as well as for the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/ and the achievement of the goals of the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development. He also addressed the role of women in development as both agents and beneficiaries, as well as the interrelationship of sustainable development with social issues, environment and the participation of women in society. He further stressed the negative

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

consequences of prevailing gender inequality, poverty, violence against women, women's unpaid labour in the household, and lack of equal access to education, resources and decision-making for the harmonious development of societies.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of ... States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex ___ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

4. At the 1st and 6th meetings, on 7 and 9 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson: Patricia Licuanan (Philippines)

Vice-Chairpersons: Natalia Drozd (Belarus)
Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl (Austria)
Olga Pellicer (Mexico)

Rapporteur: Djénébou Kaba (Côte d'Ivoire)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At the 1st meeting, on 7 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.6/1994/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

4. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

5. Priority themes:

   (a) Equality: Equal pay for work of equal value, including methodologies for measurement of pay inequities and work in the informal sector;

(b) Development: Women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immune deficiency syndrome;

(c) Peace: Measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society.

6. Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace.*

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session.

6. Also at the 1st meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work for the session (E/CN.6/1994/L.2).

7. At the 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Olga Pellicer (Mexico), was appointed Chairperson of the Informal Working Group of the Whole on Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

8. At its 1st meeting, on 7 March, the Commission decided to establish a Working Group to consider, under agenda item 4, communications regarding the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Feng Cui (China)
Ana Maria Luettgen (Cuba)
Tomova Oksana (Slovakia)
Khadiga Karar (Sudan)
Sharon Kotok (United States of America)

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

9. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) are listed in annex ___ to the present report.

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* In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12, the Commission is acting as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

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Chapter ___

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 1st to 6th and ___ meetings, from 7 to 9 and ___ March 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (E/CN.6/1994/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the draft platform for action (E/CN.6/1994/10);

(c) Report of the Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/1994/12);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General containing a preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (E/CN.6/1994/13);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (E/CN.6/1994/L.3).

General debate

2. In her introductory statement the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women referred to the preparatory activities which had been undertaken by the Conference secretariat, the United Nations system, Governments, and non-governmental organizations, including the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a High-level Advisory Group of eminent persons to facilitate the preparations and to play an advocacy role for global action. She noted that other United Nations conferences - including the World Conference on Human Rights, which placed the human rights of women on the human rights agenda; the International Conference on Population and Development, which would address the need for a new definition and interpretation of productive and reproductive rights and the shared responsibilities of men and women; and the World Summit on Social Development, focusing on the alleviation and eradication of poverty and problems of employment and social integration - were part of the framework for the preparatory work and for the Conference itself. At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, through further elaboration of the draft Platform for Action, should enable the secretariat to complete a revised, action-oriented draft before the last preparatory meeting, in 1995. The road to Beijing should be paved with vision, commitment and a determination by Governments, civil society and non-governmental organizations to create a strong image of women as agents of change and full citizens with rights and responsibilities. The broader participation of non-governmental organizations, including those without consultative status, would widen the constituency and support actions towards the advancement of women in society.

3. In an address to the Commission, the President of Ireland, Ms. Mary Robinson, stressed the historical role played by the United Nations Decade for Women and the three world conferences on women in raising awareness and changing attitudes surrounding women's issues and the role and status of women in society. Although only some of the many targets had been reached, the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the outcome of the 1985 Nairobi Conference and the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women were major steps on the path towards equality. She also emphasized the importance of the Commission on the Status of Women, with its aim of bringing women closer to the decision-making process in all societies. As women moved more into public life, a greater emphasis on the human rights of minorities, partnership and different styles of leadership had emerged. The empowerment of women could contribute to the resolution of disputes through conciliation, consensus and the development of a peaceful civil order. She emphasized the importance of education, technology, job opportunities and the elimination of violence. One sign of visible change and social evolution was the performance by women in new roles in society as equal partners with men. Partnership and sharing were gradually replacing the old stereotypes that had prevented women from taking on leadership tasks. The Conference should further empower women everywhere to take advantage of all the resources at their disposal. She expressed confidence that the Platform for Action would further advance the gains in equality already achieved and would make a major contribution to the advancement of women.

4. In view of the limited time left before the Conference, many representatives stressed the importance of accelerating the pace of the preparations, increasing efficiency and determining what remained to be done to ensure success. One representative mentioned the great demand for information about the Conference and urged the Department of Public Information to produce material for dissemination. Another proposed maintaining the original motto and logo of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City, 1975), to facilitate rapid identification.

5. Many representatives stressed the importance of the Conference as a means of giving momentum to the issue of the advancement of women and of revitalizing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. A few representatives added that those goals were of particular importance in light of the changes occurring in the world and the difficulties being faced in social, economic and political arenas.

6. Several representatives indicated that the Conference must be considered not as an isolated event but rather as one in concert with other major international events, particularly the World Conference on Human Rights, the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, and the World Summit for Social Development. One representative signalled the importance of incorporating the gender perspective if the General Assembly was to adopt an agenda for development.

7. Several representatives welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of the High-level Advisory Group of eminent persons with worldwide experience to follow preparations for the Conference. One representative welcomed the preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, the draft rules of procedure for the Conference, which followed precedents established by other international events, and the decisions taken on the participation of observers and non-governmental organizations.

8. Regarding preparations at the national level, many representatives reported on the establishment of national committees or focal points, most of which consisted of governmental and non-governmental representatives. In one country, the Committee was established through a broad election process. Several representatives acknowledged the preparations being undertaken by the host country, which reported on its activities in disseminating information and mobilizing the country. Preparations at the national level included information campaigns, the publication of leaflets, posters, special programmes in the mass media, the organization of workshops, and training - all heavily attended by non-governmental organizations. In some countries national preparations consisted of activities centred on such issues as violence against women, decision-making, women and the mass media, the role of women in development, and the plight of rural women.

9. Some representatives addressed the lack of resources which might prevent some countries and non-governmental organizations from participating in the preparatory activities and the Conference itself. Thus, assistance should be provided by donor countries and international institutions, including the United Nations system.

10. Many reports were given on regional and subregional preparatory activities. All of the regional commissions urged their respective Governments to accelerate the preparation of national reports and to participate actively in the regional preparatory meetings. Delegates and the representatives of the United Nations system cited some of the specific regional concerns that would be highlighted at those meetings, such as the empowerment of women, democratization, the role of women in development, education and health, poverty, and the situation of rural women.

General comments on the draft Platform for Action

11. Many representatives welcomed the draft Platform for Action. It incorporated most of the suggestions put forward by the Inter-sessional Working Group and constituted a solid basis for further work. Many representatives reiterated that the Platform for Action should set clear priorities and be concise, action-oriented, imaginative and written in language easily understandable by women at the grass-roots level in every part of the world. It should clearly identify action at the national, regional and international levels which would lead to commitments to take the necessary measures and establish accountability for implementation.

12. According to many representatives, the Platform should reflect universal problems without ignoring differing circumstances in different countries. It was important to deal appropriately in the Platform with the specific needs of certain groups of women. Mention was made, in particular, of rural women and elderly women, and of the concerns of refugee, displaced and migrant women. The need to take a life-cycle approach throughout was stressed. The importance of providing equal opportunities for women with disabilities was also mentioned.

13. Many representatives stated that the linkage between the status of women, population and environment, as clearly acknowledged in Agenda 21, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the expected outcome of the United Nations Conference on Population and Development and the United Nations World Summit for Social Development, and the plans for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations should form part of the Platform for Action.

14. One representative recalled the five forward-looking goals adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session, which were meant as slogans with a kind of conceptual framework for a new century and a new concept of women and their roles as citizens in society. Another representative suggested linking the Platform for Action - in particular, its strategies and actions - to domestic political realities. The best practical examples of successful programmes should be presented in the Platform.

15. A few representatives called for a realistic assessment of provisions made for the preparatory process. One representative pointed out that constructive dialogue between the secretariat and member States and among member States themselves was crucial, as were informal consultations between the regular sessions. The duration of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission should be extended in order to make possible intensive discussion of the draft Platform for Action and the outcome of the regional conferences. Another representative

suggested convening an expert group meeting dedicated to institutional arrangements.

16. With regard to the statement of mission in the draft Platform, it was noted that the increased participation of women in all spheres of society was not only an objective in itself but also a prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable development. A representative of certain specialized agencies of the United Nations system stated that the new ethic for sustainable development should be reflected in the statement. The eradication of poverty was cited as a top priority by many representatives and non-governmental organizations.

17. Many representatives stressed the need to strengthen the section on a global framework by including in it a review and appraisal of the achievements realized and the obstacles met since 1985, giving special attention to external factors and public policies. They also proposed including relevant suggestions made at the international and regional conferences and in other activities that had an impact on women. Most of the representatives suggested highlighting a positive image of women and the positive impact of their participation in development and in decision-making. Many also stressed the need to take into account differences between countries and regions.

18. Some representatives pointed out that the advancement of women had been affected at all levels by exogenous factors and by public policies and strategies for development such as structural adjustment programmes. The negative aspects of those policies had resulted in deteriorating socio-economic conditions in many parts of the world and in growing levels of conflict. On the other hand, new opportunities were being created as a result of ongoing democratic processes and the transition to market economies.

19. Referring to the part of the draft Platform on critical areas of concern, most delegates noted the need for further elaboration and analysis. Some delegates suggested making special reference to migrant, refugee and rural women, in the sections on poverty and environment. The need for a life-cycle approach was stressed by several representatives and certain United Nations agencies. Others suggested new critical areas of concern, such as the poor conditions of employment of working parents, the unequal sharing of family responsibilities, and unequal participation in science and technology. One representative questioned the need for a critical area of concern related to the environment. A few representatives thought that the list was too exhaustive and wanted to prioritize it more drastically.

20. Many representatives stressed the importance for the empowerment of women of their participation in decision-making in all areas. Some emphasized the need for women to become full and equal citizens, active in all spheres of life and responsible for the future of their societies and of the world. Without the active participation of women, democracy would not be complete, and parity and partnership would never be fully achieved. Cooperation between men and women was viewed as indispensable for the creation of a democratic and participatory society. The need to change the structures and processes of power was emphasized. It was pointed out that in many countries the number of women in Parliament was decreasing.

21. Some delegates referred to the role and place of national machinery and emphasized its importance in the preparations for the Conference at the national level. Some pointed out that the preparatory process provided a good opportunity for sustaining and strengthening the role of such machinery.

22. Most representatives considered women's human rights a key issue for the Platform for Action. One representative stressed that many other issues would require no further discussion if the human rights of women were fully realized and if there was universal adherence to human rights instruments.

23. Many representatives welcomed the results of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which finally recognized that the human rights of women and the girl-child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and set the basis for their implementation and protection in accordance with international standards.

24. The goals of universal ratification by all States of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women remained a top goal, and the removal of reservations to it was urged. The appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Violence against women was welcomed.

25. Several representatives emphasized that reference to international standards other than those of the Convention, especially those pertaining to human rights and labour standards, including the protection of migrant workers, needed to be included in the Platform for Action. Sexual harassment should not be omitted from the recommended legislation or administrative rules and procedures.

26. Several representatives insisted that initiatives to increase legal literacy must be intensified among women and men. The need for legal aid for poor women, gender fairness in the judicial system, and gender sensitivity in the training of lawyers and judges was expressed.

27. Many representatives felt that the problems of rural women required special attention and pointed to the relationship between poverty and having complete responsibility for children.

28. Many representatives acknowledged that education needed to be considered very seriously as the key to development and the most effective anti-poverty policy. Education and health were critical factors for reproductive rights and sound population policies, since the linkages between increased levels of education and the exercise of reproductive choice and fertility regulation were evident.

29. A representative speaking for a group of specialized United Nations agencies reported that gender parity in primary and secondary education was achieved in only two regions of the world. Several speakers welcomed the emphasis on the relevance of science and engineering training for girls and women. Other representatives noted that the decline in economic growth negatively affected the education of girls.

30. Public education in the sense of changing public opinion was important for educating a new generation of men and women working together. One representative emphasized the fact that educational choices led to a clear occupational segregation and needed to be abolished. The educational sectors traditionally chosen by women should be reviewed.

31. Several representatives stressed that access to health services, including family planning, should be affordable and acceptable. They stated that the health patterns of women differed from those of men and that women's health was deteriorating with the emergence of AIDS. The problem of traditional practices and the need to eliminate female genital mutilation was mentioned by the representative of one non-governmental organization.

32. Many representatives stated that the elimination of violence against women stood out as a particularly crucial issue and was one of the most extreme violations of women's human rights. They welcomed the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence by the General Assembly. One representative stated that all efforts to promote equality and development would fail if a peaceful and violence-free environment could not be ensured for women. Economic empowerment plus legal protection of their rights could help women in resisting domestic victimization.

33. A representative speaking for a group of specialized United Nations agencies suggested analysing the historical, social and cultural origins of violence. The incidence of violence in the workplace needed to be studied. The particular vulnerability of stateless women such as refugees and displaced women who could no longer avail themselves of their Government's legal protection was highlighted. One observer suggested facilitating the removal of refugee women from conflict areas. Several representatives stressed that trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution needed to be addressed. One representative suggested establishing a working group to analyse and revise the 1950 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

34. It was observed that war-related violence was increasing and that in some parts of the world women were deliberately and systematically subjected to physical abuse and atrocities. Appropriate strategies needed to be formulated to curb State-sponsored violence against women and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

35. Some representatives suggested that women's involvement in creating and sustaining peaceful societies should be seen in a perspective broader than that of peace-keeping and should include reconciliation, peaceful resolution of conflicts and dialogue.

36. A few representatives welcomed the addition of a priority theme on women and the media and stressed the role of the mass media in raising gender awareness through education and public information. The effect of global information networks needed to be brought out more clearly. It was suggested that the role of the mass media in portraying women and greater participation of women in the mass media should be addressed.

37. A few representatives expressed their concern with regard to the practicality of using the media to promote equality between women and men, since all media organizations in their countries were independent and Governments were not in a position to take action in that regard.

38. Several representatives welcomed the reference to the mutual responsibility of men and women to sustain and support family life, practically as well as financially. One representative recognized the unequal sharing of family responsibilities as a specific critical area of concern affecting women's participation in all spheres of life. Another representative suggested recognizing that different types of families were an expression of the transformation of society. It was stated that the International Year of the Family, proclaimed for 1994, should accelerate its efforts to encourage women and men to combine family and work responsibilities in a more balanced manner.

39. Several representatives stated that the section on strategic objectives needed further elaboration and strengthening. Too rigid divisions of responsibility among Governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations should be avoided. Greater correlation between the sections on critical areas of concern and on strategic objectives would add to the overall coherence of the platform. The representatives of United Nations specialized agencies suggested that it could be enhanced by a concise statement setting forth the strategic nature of each objective, time-bound targets, and the establishment of incentives and support measures for their attainment. Concerted action should be based on the regional conferences and other preparatory activities.

40. Representatives emphasized that efficient financial arrangements needed to be provided and sufficient financial and human resources mobilized. They urged international financial institutions and the private sector to make contributions. The cost of all future action should be determined, and allocations for mainstream action needed to specify the resources devoted to the improvement of the situation of women.

41. With regard to institutional arrangements, one representative suggested that the strengthening of national machinery should be dealt with in its own right as a logical outcome of the critical areas of concern. Some of the characteristics of an efficient national machinery, such as clear identity, political support from the highest level and a cross-cutting and interdisciplinary mandate, mobilization and maintenance of adequate financial and human resources, collection of relevant information on policy-making processes and liaison with focal points in all relevant departments and agencies, could be applied at the international level. It was suggested that the role and place of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Division for the Advancement of Women and other relevant United Nations units should be reconsidered. The first step could be an expert group meeting on the subject. Another representative stated that it might be useful to evaluate the efficiency of exercises such as the United Nations system-wide medium-term plan and the establishment of focal points for women. Other representatives proposed enhancing the role of the United Nations in promoting strategies for the advancement of women and improving the coordination of activities and programmes

within the United Nations, including reinforcement of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

42. Representatives of specialized United Nations agencies suggested establishing a core structure concerned with coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the platform for action required at the international, regional and national levels. At the international level, a comprehensive and open dialogue and a record of experience between multi- and bilateral organizations and representatives of civil society should be an integral part of the institutional arrangements.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Djénébou Kaba (Côte d'Ivoire)

Chapter ___

PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 7th, 8th and ___ meetings on 10, 11 and ___ March 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1994/5).

2. In introducing the item, the Coordinator, Focal Point for Women, Office of Human Resources Management, informed the Commission on the progress made towards improving the status of women in the Secretariat. As a result of the grade-by-grade promotion exercise of 1992, the percentage of women in the posts subject to geographical distribution in the Secretariat had increased during the period June 1993 to December 1993 from 31.3 to 32.0 per cent. She stated that the slow progress towards the equality of women was a reflection of the situation of women in the world and that the existing structures needed to be transformed to allow a better gender balance. She further stated that the Department of Administration and Management and the Office of Human Resources Management, under the strong guidance and direction of the Secretary-General, were obliged to achieve that transformation through an evolutionary process, and by integrating the goals of equality for women into the regular management and

personnel procedures of the Secretariat. She also stated that the commitment of Member States backed by resources and mandates, would be needed to implement those goals.

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

3. Some representatives welcomed the improvement of the participation of women in the Secretariat, but noted that the current rate of increase was insufficient to achieve the targets set by the General Assembly, at 35 per cent of overall participation and 25 per cent at the senior policy- and decision-making level. Greater efforts were required to achieve those targets.

4. Several representatives stated that the participation of women at the decision-making level throughout the United Nations system would accelerate the advancement of women, as it would ensure the incorporation of women's perspectives and concerns in the development of mainstream policies and programmes. A few representatives indicated that Member States could play a crucial role in that respect by increasing the number and participation of women through the submission of qualified female candidates for high-level posts.

5. Several representatives welcomed the development by the Secretary-General of a plan of action for the biennium 1993-1994 to improve the status of women in the Secretariat by 1995, and urged his strong and visible commitment to its implementation.

6. A few representatives expressed the need for full implementation of the measures designed to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. One representative, on behalf of a group of countries, stated that it was time to review the effectiveness of the administrative instruction issued in 1992 on the procedures for dealing with sexual harassment to ensure that all aspects of the issue were addressed.

Coordination matters

7. In her statement to the Commission, the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) affirmed the policy of UNIFEM to strengthen its organization and to use all the tools at its disposal to work together with other parts of the United Nations system for common goals. Meanwhile, UNIFEM should retain its identity and distinct role as it works towards equity and conflict resolution, which are essential to sustainable development.

Chapter ___

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

8. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 7th, 8th and ___ meetings on 10, 11 and ___ March 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/1994/6);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on women and children under apartheid (E/CN.6/1994/7);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to publicize the communications mechanism of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/1994/8);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (E/CN.6/1994/11);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of confidential and non-confidential communications concerning the status of women (S.W. Communications List No. 28 and E/CN.6/1994/CR.30).

9. In addition, the Commission had before it, for information, the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twelfth session (A/48/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/48/354);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 (A/48/413);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights (A/48/92-S/25341);

(e) Results of the thirteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1994/CRP.1).

10. In introducing the item, the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women noted that the documentation on the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights described the steps taken and suggested to ensure closer cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights in order to address on a regular basis violations of the human rights of women. She also presented the results of the thirteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including its suggestion No. 5 relating to an optional protocol to the Convention meant to provide for a complaints procedure, as well as the request of the Committee to extend the time allocated to the Committee. On communications, she stressed the need for more extensive use by the Commission of the non-confidential list in order to identify policy trends. She noted that, in the light of rapidly changing political developments, the reports on women and children under apartheid and on Palestinian women were tentative. Finally, she made an oral

report on the implementation of resolution 36/4 of the Commission on the Status of Women concerning the integration of elderly women into development.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

11. While regretting the shortcomings of the note prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women on the subject (E/CN.6/1994/6), a few representatives referred to the difficult living conditions of Palestinian women and children in the occupied territories still under military occupation. One representative urged the international community not to allow such living conditions to continue, whereas another representative expressed concern about the difficult new phase that Palestinian women and children might enter if the issue of continuous occupation was not properly addressed.

12. One representative of a specialized agency reported on its activities, including a multidisciplinary mission to the occupied Palestinian territories, entitled "Capacity-building for social development: a programme of action for transition in the occupied Palestinian territories", and a forthcoming workshop in the occupied Palestinian territories on the question of employment and equality of women in the process of transition towards autonomy.

Women and children under apartheid

13. While commending the positive decision of the African National Congress to have one third of women on the list of candidates for the forthcoming election, one representative expressed dissatisfaction with the slow progress towards the effective elimination of violence against women.

14. One representative of a specialized agency addressed the effects of the migrant labour system on women. They included the high proportion of women-headed households in both rural and urban areas. She further noted the sharp increase in unemployment of young black South African women and the severe discrimination against them, which should be addressed through practical measures.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

15. Many representatives noted the important role of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and called for universal adherence to the Convention. They further requested the removal of those reservations that were incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention and for a precise and narrow formulation of the others. Concern was expressed that those reservations that were contrary to the objective and purpose of the Convention gave grounds to question the entry into force of the Convention by those countries whose commitment to the human rights of women was limited.

16. A few representatives indicated that, although national reports to the Committee could be effective tools for making national administrations, the judiciary, the legal profession and human rights non-governmental organizations more gender-sensitive in their work, their preparation had not always been used as an opportunity for improving the situation of women in the reporting country.

Concern was expressed that 38 States parties had not yet submitted their initial reports and they were urged to submit those reports and, if needed, to request advisory services for assistance in their preparation.

17. Concern was also expressed with regard to the backlog of reports pending consideration by the Committee since that led to an unacceptable delay in considering them. Some representatives noted that the time allocated for the annual meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was far shorter than that of other human rights treaty bodies. It was suggested that the Convention be amended, on an exceptional basis and with reference only to the working time of the Committee set out in article 20 of the Convention, to provide the Committee with the same flexibility as other human rights treaty bodies. One representative supported the recommendation adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session to authorize, on an exceptional basis, two meetings of three weeks' duration annually, each preceded by a pre-session working group.

18. Many representatives stressed that, without prejudice to the discussion on the feasibility of an optional protocol, the matter should be considered within the wider context of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of all human rights mechanisms and serving the interest of women of the world and for the purpose of avoiding duplication of work. One representative supported the idea of convening an expert group meeting to prepare a draft optional protocol in accordance with the suggestion made by the Committee at its thirteenth session.

19. The representative of a United Nations body provided information on its programme activities and policy discussion related to the promotion of the Convention and supplementary information and comments on the application of the Convention in selected countries.

Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights

20. Many representatives welcomed the strong emphasis on the equal status and human rights of women contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. Some representatives also welcomed the recognition of the importance of incorporating a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations.

21. Many representatives welcomed the decision taken at the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special Rapporteur on violence against women as an opportunity to build on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and to ensure that any violations of women's human rights were reported and dealt with effectively at the main human rights forums. One representative stressed that the effectiveness of the Rapporteur would be determined by the cooperation and coordination among the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the other human rights treaty bodies and the Commission on Human Rights.

22. Some representatives supported the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (E/CN.6/1994/11), such as establishing a women's rights unit within the Division for the Advancement of Women; convening an expert group meeting to develop

specific guidelines on how to identify, document and report on gender-based violations of human rights; designing a training workshop and preparing material on gender analysis. Other representatives welcomed the suggestion to prepare a study, outlining the ways and means of cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights. The necessity of exchanging such information and documentation between the Centre and the Division was also emphasized.

23. The representative of the Centre for Human Rights reported on its plan of activities for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action relating to the integration of the equal status of women into the mainstream of human rights activities. She further assured the Commission that this matter had been given serious consideration in the Centre for Human Rights but that greater commitment of all concerned and more cooperation was needed for the real advancement of the human rights of women.

Communications concerning the status of women

24. The Commission had before it a list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (S.W. Communications List No. 28), which was distributed in a sealed envelope to the representatives of each of its States members, and a list of non-confidential communications (E/CN.6/1994/CR.30).

25. At its 9th meeting, on 11 March 1993, the Commission appointed a Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women. The Working Group held ___ closed meetings.

26. Many representatives expressed their support for the Commission's communications mechanism and considered it an effective way of bringing to its attention broad principles relating to the promotion of women's rights. Some noted the different objectives of the communications procedures before the Commission on Human Rights, on the one hand, and the Commission on the Status of Women, on the other, both of which should be maintained. One representative stated that the communications mechanism needed to be changed. In particular, the criteria for categorizing communications as confidential or non-confidential ought to be amended. Another representative favoured a wider eligibility of communications qualifying for the non-confidential list as a means of increasing the number of communications available for review, thus enabling the Commission to obtain better guidance for its policy from emerging trends.

27. Several representatives addressed the issue of publicity for the communications mechanism, stating that the efforts undertaken as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1994/8), seemed insufficient. The drop in the number of communications submitted to the Commission over the years was not the result of a drop in the number of cases of discrimination, but the result of inadequate publicity for the mechanism. A review of the existing policy seemed even more necessary in the light of the cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women and urgent action was sought to ensure continuous and immediate publicity for the mechanism. One representative said, however, that in view of the recent appointments of a High Commissioner for Human Rights and a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and in the light of improving coordination among the

relevant human rights bodies dealing with women's human rights and for the purpose of avoiding duplication of work, a comprehensive review of the human rights mechanisms relating to women seemed relevant for determining their roles and mandates before strengthening any of them.

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Djénébou Kaba (Côte d'Ivoire)

PRIORITY THEMES

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 9th to 13th and ..... meetings, on 11, 14, 15 and ... March 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on equal pay for work of equal value, including methodologies for measurement of pay inequities and work in the informal sector (E/CN.6/1994/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (E/CN.6/1994/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society (E/CN.6/1994/4).

2. The Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women introduced the item and emphasized the importance to preparations for the Conference of discussion by the Commission on the priority themes and the Platform for Action. Under the priority theme Equality, she pointed to a number of policies and measures proposed in the report which could be taken to give effect to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. Regarding the priority theme

Development, she emphasized that the analyses included in the report had been based on the findings of a seminar on the subject held at INSTRAW in Santo Domingo in November 1993 and had focused on the specific problems faced by women living in the rapidly expanding urban environment. The report on the theme Peace had made detailed and pointed recommendations on the matter. Some of those recommendations could help the Commission determine steps to take to give effect to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104. Some of them had already been included under the item on domestic violence on the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control. She further noted that the Commission on Human Rights was proceeding to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and that the General Assembly would discuss the issue of violence against migrant women under the terms of resolution 48/109 at its next session.

A. Equality: Equal pay for work of equal value, including methodologies for measurement of pay inequities and work in the informal sector

3. Many representatives emphasized their interest in the issue and noted that, in spite of certain achievements, the pattern of unequal remuneration was universal, though the level of inequality varied from country to country. Despite existing national and international provisions and legislative and constitutional guarantees, women everywhere, on average, were paid less than men. Several representatives underlined the fact that the unequal remuneration in most countries was the result of the persistent undervaluation of female-dominated jobs rather than pay inequities between identical jobs held by men and women. Many representatives emphasized that women still dominated in low-paid, low-skilled jobs with flatter career paths and fewer possibilities for interoccupational mobility.

4. Many representatives pointed to the general undervaluation of women's labour, skills and occupations as the main cause of inequality, which should be addressed by the Governments, employers, trade unions and society. Several representatives stressed the role of trade unions in promoting equality in pay through lobbying for effective equal-value legislation and the submission of relevant cases to labour tribunals. According to many representatives, the pattern of unequal remuneration had its roots in the gender division of labour in the household, in the labour market and in the community where men and women traditionally performed different tasks, differently valued by the society. A few representatives stressed the fact that there was a direct link between women's paid labour and unpaid work at home, which served as further justification for the low pay in traditional female occupations. Several representatives emphasized that inequalities in remuneration were still poorly researched and not well documented statistically and that it was difficult to elaborate efficient methods for implementing the principle of equal remuneration.

5. Many representatives agreed that legislative provisions in the area of equal pay for work of equal value were necessary but not sufficient. Comprehensive policies, including monitoring mechanisms, dissemination of information and statistical data on existing disparities in earnings between men and women, and the implementation of job evaluation methodologies were indispensable. Several representatives stressed that the re-evaluation of jobs irrespective of sex had had a positive impact on reducing the wage gap in their countries. A few representatives noted that pay equity should be addressed not only in legislation but also in collective agreements. One representative underlined the fact that a combination of legal redress and independent conciliation arrangements provided a suitable mix for the enforcement of the right to equal pay for work of equal value. A few representatives noted that while the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was already well-known, the concept "work of comparable worth" was less known and required further analysis. One representative underlined the importance of the concept that pay equity depended less on administrated wage structures and more on equal employment opportunities and positive action programmes enforced by equality legislation.

6. With regard to equal pay for work of equal value, many representatives underlined the importance of targeting the informal sector as the area of growing female employment. The importance of introducing legislation on equal pay for equal work in the informal sector and the policy of pay equity were emphasized by several representatives. Several representatives stressed the urgent need for comprehensive analyses of the situation of female employees in the informal sector.

7. Many representatives emphasized the important role of equality in education and training for closing the wage gap between men and women. The need for integrated and broad training programmes enabling women to enter the occupations traditionally dominated by men, and changing the attitudes of both men and women in that regard was emphasized. Several representatives stated that the organization of training and retraining should provide for reconciliation of the family and work responsibilities. A few representatives stressed the importance of providing child-care facilities.

8. Several representatives underlined the special importance of equity of pay in view of the growth of female-headed households and stressed that women should be given equal opportunity to support themselves and their families.

9. Many representatives stressed the importance of raising the consciousness of women about their rights in the area of work. A few representatives stressed the need for organizing awareness campaigns on the concept of equal pay for work of equal value for employers and for the general public. Closing the wage gap was a developmental issue as well as an important mechanism for achieving equality, the economic independence of women and social justice, and a necessary condition for the full enjoyment by women of their human rights as citizens.

10. The importance of further research was expressed, including the possibility of convening an expert group meeting on the subject. Several representatives urged that the conclusions and recommendations of such a meeting be disseminated among Governments. One representative noted that, without prejudice to the role of ILO in the area, the Commission on the Status of Women should keep close record of all new developments concerning the issue of equal pay for work of equal value and that the issue should be included in the second review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Djénébou Kaba (Côte d'Ivoire)

PRIORITY THEMES

B. Development: Women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immune deficiency syndrome

11. Many representatives expressed their concern that rapid urbanization was a major challenge for the forthcoming decades. The urban population has been growing two and a half times faster than the rural population, and the urbanization process in developing countries was closely linked with urban poverty, severely affecting women. In some countries, the growth pattern had resulted in changes in the sectoral composition of the economy. For example, light manufacturing accounted for a greater share of gross national product than agriculture, the traditional mainstay of women.

12. Many representatives expressed concern about current trends indicating that increasingly more women than men were single heads of households and that more women were migrating to urban areas. A few representatives stressed that mobility was a prerequisite for women's employment and career opportunities. Thus, such issues as public transport and housing for working women in urban and semi-urban locations should be given more attention. Some representatives emphasized the need for men and women to share all household duties.

13. Some representatives expressed regret that only two paragraphs in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies were devoted to the issue of women in urban areas. Some representatives expressed their disappointment that the Secretary-General's report did not refer to the issue of international migration of women workers, focusing instead on intra-country migration only. One representative stated that the report omitted the problem of mega-cities which generated a massive flow of men and women seeking jobs. Another representative recalled that at its thirty-fifth session, the Commission had adopted resolution 35/6 entitled "Women migrant workers", in which it had recommended several measures to be undertaken by member States to tackle the problem. She asked to be informed of the follow-up activities of the Secretariat called for in the resolution.

14. The problem of migration, although universal, was more acute in some countries than in others. One non-governmental organization representative stressed the need for cooperative migration strategies.

15. A number of representatives pointed to the issue of AIDS and the risk of greater exposure of women in urban areas to the infection. One representative announced the implementation of a Global Issues Initiative on Population and AIDS within the framework of the official assistance programme to developing countries. The problem of HIV/AIDS was of particular concern because of the challenge of providing proper treatment of those infected. The need for effective preventive educational campaigns, housing and care for the families whose breadwinners were infected, including psychological counselling, was also stressed.

16. Some representatives gave their attention to the socio-economic interdependency between the single rural woman and the urban migrant women in developing countries. Development policies that did not address the problems of urban and rural areas simultaneously often had a negative impact on women, such as forcing rural women to seek income in non-agricultural production.

17. One representative (on behalf of a group of countries) made concrete proposals for development programmes and projects aimed at direct assistance to women in urban slum areas for enhancing their residential environments, bettering their job possibilities and improving both health and education. The representative reported on the success of another project implemented in her country aimed at empowering destitute urban women and training them for participation in community decision-making.

18. Many representatives stated that unless the specific situation of women was taken into account, the impact of urbanization on women's lives would remain negative. A few representatives pointed out that if structural adjustment programmes implied budget cuts in such services as transportation, sanitation, and energy supply, women would be severely affected. One representative suggested that external support agencies could play an important role in making urban development more gender-sensitive.

19. Representatives stated that social policies in developed countries should address the problems of migrant women living in big cities. Urban life, while giving women access to educational and occupational opportunities, had

paradoxically marginalized and impoverished them, exposing them to psychological stress, xenophobia and forced prostitution in extreme cases. Promoting and ensuring the human rights of those women therefore deserved special attention. In order to fully guarantee such rights, women should be much more involved in decision-making in urban planning.

20. Most of the representatives endorsed the recommendations adopted by the seminar on women in urban areas. However, one representative questioned the recommendation that the matter of nutrition should be addressed by Governments, stating that such matters should be the concern of communities.

21. Several representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations agreed that the root causes of migration should be addressed by creating the necessary favourable conditions for job opportunities in rural areas, thus curbing migration to urban areas.

22. Many representatives agreed that policy-making should be based on a realistic and integrated approach to urban development, including partnership of the public, private and community sectors, involving both men and women.

C. Peace: Measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society

23. Most representatives welcomed the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, as an important first step towards the eradication of violence against women. They also welcomed the decision to establish the post of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the results of the Vienna Conference on Human Rights, which had recognized that women's human rights were an integral part of human rights in general; consequently, all forms of violence against women should be considered as serious violations of human rights and dealt with at the main human rights forums.

24. Several representatives commented on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and commended its gender-sensitive approach to human rights. One representative indicated that although women's rights were theoretically enshrined in the universal human rights instruments, specific violation of women's human rights and gender-specific abuses had not been specifically addressed by the instruments. Furthermore, it was pointed out that ratification of the human rights instruments was not enough; a clear gender-sensitive approach to their interpretation and application was necessary, since interpretation of the principles they contained had not ensured equal protection of men's and women's rights.

25. Some representatives stated that the Special Rapporteur had a primary responsibility for the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and could make a substantial contribution to the monitoring and implementation of the Declaration by properly reporting on abuse and responding to it. The others emphasized that the Commission on the Status of Women had an important part to play in raising awareness of the issues,

monitoring progress and encouraging positive developments until the Fourth World Conference on Women made its recommendations on the matter.

26. Many representatives referred to the steps taken towards closer cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights, indicated in document E/CN.6/1994/11. In her statement, the representative of the Centre for Human Rights provided an account of the initiatives undertaken. She emphasized the need to provide better protection for women's human rights, to continue exploring better modalities for coordinating the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Commission on Human Rights.

27. Several representatives stated that the fundamental link between women's inequality and violence should be given more attention. Violence was viewed as a continuum of behaviour involving men's abuse of power over women who had less power, due to their gender-related unequal status in all societies. Many representatives informed the Commission of measures adopted to combat violence against women in their countries such as stricter terms of punishment of perpetrators; legal protection of women and aid to women; support of shelters for battered women; new legislation, particularly in regard to rape, and new procedures for facilitating complaints and the persecution of the perpetrators; training of law enforcement personnel to assist rape victims; modified court procedures and financial compensation to rape victims. It was suggested that an in-depth study of the treatment of those who commit violent crimes against women be made. Among other innovative actions undertaken in order to stop violence against women, the initiative to encourage non-violent men to speak out against such violence and not to excuse the violence of other men was mentioned as part of a community education programme. One representative described the action taken to stop female sexual mutilation. Another representative spoke about a successful survey on the generational cycle of violence, its association with substance abuse, and the reluctance of women to tell about their victimization.

28. The increased understanding of the causes and mechanisms of violence, which had resulted in new approaches and actions by the judiciary and social welfare and health-care institutions, was stressed. Although physical and sexual violence had become visible and were being addressed, the moral and psychological violence resulting from oppression and discrimination remained invisible. Thus, those particular forms of violence should be given more attention by the Commission.

29. The need for cooperation between private organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions and the establishment of interministerial groups to combat violence against women were also mentioned.

30. A few representatives expressed support for the new measures aimed at the prevention of sexual harassment in the Secretariat of the United Nations. While several representatives mentioned the issue of sexual harassment, one representative described in detail the action undertaken to combat and prevent it at the national level in her country.

31. Several representatives commended the recommendations of the 1993 Expert Group Meeting on Measures to Eradicate Violence against Women. One representative suggested that such recommendations could be useful to address violence against women at the national level. Another representative referred to the report on peace (E/CN.6/1994/4) which had focused on measures to combat violence against women and did not consider sufficiently the patterns of relationship between men and women and missed the consideration of various means which would be useful for breaking the cycle of power and abuse which were the key issues in preventing violence.

32. Several representatives expressed their concern over the insufficient attention paid to the abuses of human rights of women in armed conflicts. Reference was made to the crimes against women committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the urgent need to bring the perpetrators before the International Tribunal. The establishment of a special unit in the office of the Prosecutor which would deal mainly with war-related violence against women, including rape and sexual assault, was recommended.

33. The gravity of problems faced by female migrant workers, including violence and physical abuse, was addressed by one representative. She noted the increasing number of women migrating from developing to industrialized countries and described their vulnerability and the difficulties they faced in the receiving countries, such as the low level of accessible jobs and lack of knowledge of the worker's protection mechanisms. She stated that the problem required close cooperation between the countries of emigration and the receiving States as well as continued attention by the United Nations system and other concerned bodies. She recalled the various relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session and by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh by which the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a report on the matter for submission to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session.

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MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Algeria* and China: draft resolution

Women and children in the process of the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic South Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1993/45 of 28 July 1993,

Reaffirming the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/159 of 20 December 1993,

Concerned about the grave socio-economic deprivation to which the majority of the people, especially women and children, continue to be subjected as a direct consequence of apartheid,

Alarmed that the politically motivated violence in South Africa, especially in Natal and Transvaal Provinces, which has to date claimed thousands of lives and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless, the majority of whom are women and children, continues to escalate,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

Welcoming the participation of women in the resolution of the problems of South Africa by peaceful means and their full participation in the forthcoming elections and beyond,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on women and children living under apartheid, 1/

Convinced that the present legal system as it relates to questions of substantive sexism that are integral to the problems of poverty, ignorance and disempowerment requires structural changes to be relevant to a new and just South Africa,

Recognizing that the equality of women and men cannot be achieved without the success of the struggle towards a united, non-racist, non-sexist and democratic South Africa,

Commending the continuing role played by the international community and the United Nations, in particular the Centre against Apartheid and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in helping South African women to participate fully in the process of establishing a non-racist, non-sexist and democratic South Africa,

1. Commends South African women for resisting oppression and for the role they continue to play in the establishment of a united, non-racist, non-sexist and democratic South Africa;

2. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children, in accordance with the undertaking of the South African authorities;

3. Appeals to all countries and United Nations bodies, in conformity with relevant General Assembly resolutions, to increase their support for educational, health and vocational training and employment opportunities for women and children in addressing the legacy of apartheid;

4. Requests the Centre against Apartheid to further widen and strengthen its cooperation with the department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, with a view to creating specific programmes of assistance to South African women to enable them to participate fully in the process of the transition of their country towards a non-racist democracy;

5. Further requests the international community to provide financial, material and human resources to South African women towards the establishment of special programmes and projects geared to women's integration and advancement at the present time and in post-apartheid South Africa;

1/ E/CN.6/1994/7.

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report on the incidents of political and domestic violence directed against women and children in South Africa;

7. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women should remain seized of the question of women and children in South Africa;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

United States of America: draft resolution

Integration of women in the Middle East peace process

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/58 of 14 December 1993 on the Middle East peace process,

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993, 1/

Stressing that the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict will constitute a significant contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security and is an indispensable condition for the furthering of human rights in the region,

Recalling the convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the subsequent bilateral negotiations, as well as the meetings of the multilateral working groups, and noting with satisfaction the broad international support for the peace process,

Noting the continuing positive participation of the United Nations as a full extraregional participant in the work of the multilateral working groups,

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1/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Bearing in mind the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, 2/

1. Stresses the importance of, and need for, achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

2. Emphasizes that the achievement of such a peace is vital for the full implementation of human rights in the area;

3. Welcomes the peace process started at Madrid and supports the subsequent bilateral negotiations;

4. Expresses its full support for the achievements of the peace process thus far, in particular the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, which constitute an important initial step in achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and urges all parties to implement agreements reached;

5. Considers that an active United Nations role in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles can make a positive contribution;

6. Urges Governments, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to include women in the peace process as facilitators and mediators, and in any other roles that may enhance the peace process;

7. Urges Governments, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to ensure that women's political development and participation are integrated into all efforts evolving from the Declaration of Principles, including legislative reform, institution-building and political processes;

8. Urges Governments, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations to ensure that women are included in the design and implementation of all policies and programmes evolving from the Declaration of Principles, with a special emphasis on women's interests in those programmes related to environment, democracy, health, population, education and employment.

2/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

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PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Algeria, Angola*, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia*, Brazil*, Bulgaria, Canada*, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark*, Finland, Germany*, Guinea-Bissau, Israel*, Italy, Mongolia*, Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway*, Philippines, Portugal*, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia*, Spain, Sweden*, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, United States of America and Zambia: draft resolution

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also article 8 of the Charter, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling further the relevant paragraphs of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ especially paragraphs 79, 315, 356 and 358,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies that have continued to focus on this area since the adoption of Assembly resolution 2715 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, in which the question of the employment of women in the Professional category was first addressed,

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, 2/ and regretting the lateness in the availability of this report,

Recalling the goal set in General Assembly resolutions 45/125 of 14 December 1990, 45/239 C of 21 December 1990, 46/100 of 16 December 1991, 47/93 of 16 December 1992 and 48/106 of 20 December 1993 of a 35 per cent overall participation rate of women in posts subject to geographical distribution by 1995,

Noting with concern that the current rate of increase in the appointment of women is insufficient to achieve the objective of a 35 per cent participation rate of women in posts subject to geographical distribution by 1995,

Recalling the goal set in General Assembly resolution 45/239 C of a 25 per cent participation rate of women in posts at the D-1 level and above by 1995,

Noting with concern that the participation rate of women in posts at the D-1 level and above remains unreasonably low, although some welcome improvements have been made,

Aware that a comprehensive policy aimed at preventing sexual harassment should be an integral part of personnel policy,

Commending the Secretary-General for his administrative instruction 3/ containing procedures for dealing with cases of sexual harassment,

Bearing in mind that a visible commitment by the Secretary-General is essential to the achievement of the targets set by the General Assembly,

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1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ A/48/513.

3/ ST/AI/379.

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretary-General, expressed in his statement to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, 4/ to bringing the balance in policy-level positions as close to fifty-fifty as possible, and his commitment, expressed in his message on the occasion of International Women's Day 1993 5/ and reaffirmed in his statement on International Women's Day 1994, to see that the number of women in Professional posts in the Secretariat reflects the world population as a whole by the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995,

Welcoming also the development by the Secretary-General of a plan of action for 1993 and 1994 to improve the status of women in the Secretariat by 1995, 6/

1. Urges the Secretary-General to implement fully the plan of action to improve the status of women in the Secretariat by 1995, 7/ noting that his visible commitment is essential to the achievement of the targets set by the General Assembly;

2. Also urges the Secretary-General to examine further existing work practices within the United Nations system, with a view to increasing flexibility so as to remove direct or indirect discrimination against staff members with family responsibilities, including consideration of such issues as job-sharing, flexible working hours, child-care arrangements, career break schemes and access to training;

3. Further urges the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and within those parts of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies where representation of women is considerably below the average, in order to achieve the goals set in General Assembly resolutions 45/125, 45,239 C, 46/100, 47/93 and 48/106 of an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995 and 25 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above by 1995;

4. Strongly urges the Secretary-General to make further use of the opportunity offered by the United Nations reorganization process to promote more women into senior-level positions;

5. Calls on the Secretary-General to strengthen, from within existing resources, the focal point for women within the Secretariat to ensure authority of enforcement and responsibility of accountability and designate it with the

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4/ A/C.5/47/SR.21, para. 58.

5/ E/CN.6/1993/15, para. 14.

6/ See A/48/513, para. 18.

7/ Ibid.

express mandate for overall implementation of the plan of action developed by the Secretary-General to improve the status of women in the Secretariat;

6. Urges the Secretary-General to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries, particularly those that are unrepresented or underrepresented, and from other countries that have a low representation of women, including countries in transition;

7. Strongly encourages Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to increase the percentage of women in Professional posts, especially at the D-1 level and above, by identifying and submitting more women candidates, encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat, specialized agencies and regional commissions;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to develop further comprehensive policy measures aimed at the prevention of sexual harassment in the Secretariat;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that a progress report on the status of women in the Secretariat, containing, inter alia, policy measures aimed at the prevention of sexual harassment in the Secretariat, is presented to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, and to ensure that it is issued in accordance with the six-weeks' rule for the circulation of documentation.

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Thirty-eighth session
New York, 7-18 March 1994
Agenda item 4

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina*, Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada*, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark*, Finland, Israel*, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal*, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden*, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania*, and Venezuela: draft resolution

Mainstreaming women's human rights

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Welcoming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, 1/ which emphasized that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and stressed that these rights should be integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 48/108 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the implications of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference for its central role in matters related to women's rights within the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994,

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights, 2/

Recalling that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 3/ is a key international human rights instrument for the promotion and protection of women's human rights, and acknowledging both its codifying and innovating functions,

Noting the important roles that the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have to play in making the general human rights work of the United Nations more gender conscious and in promoting the universal and indivisible human rights of women,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 4/ as well as the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session on integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, 5/ in which the Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and its consequences;

1. Stresses the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that the United Nations human rights mechanisms address on a regular basis violations of women's human rights and that the Commission on the Stats of Women regularly takes stock of that integration process while carrying out its central role of monitoring activities relating to the status of women;

2. Emphasizes the need to develop and enhance the role of focal points on women's human rights, both in the Centre for Human Rights and in the Division for the Advancement of Women, and to ensure cooperation and coordination between the two bodies on an ongoing basis;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint workplan on women's human rights for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995, of these plans; and to promote the mutual availability of documentation, as well as the development of a public information strategy;

2/ E/CN.6/1994/11.

3/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

4/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

5/ E/CN.4/1994/L.8/Rev.1.

4. Encourages the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women to explore the possibilities of organizing training in women's human rights, inter alia, by exchange of personnel, so that human rights officers can be trained in women's rights issues and the personnel in the Division for the Advancement of Women can be trained in general human rights matters;

5. Encourages the Centre for Human Rights to explore the possibility of convening an expert group meeting to develop specific guidelines for identifying documenting and reporting on gender-based human rights violations and ways in which to effectively integrate these questions into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations;

6. Recommends that the meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies consider on a regular basis at their biennial sessions the issue of mainstreaming women's human rights, with a view to promoting coordination and cooperation between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the other treaty bodies, especially in the field of information exchange and coordination of their reporting guidelines;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to give special emphasis to financial and institutional arrangements in his report to the Fourth World Conference on Women, requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 31 of its resolution 48/108, on the extent to which gender concerns have been included in the relevant human rights mechanisms;

8. Decides to remain seized of this matter and, in particular, to examine at its thirty-ninth session the progress made and the plans developed.

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Agenda item 4

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina*, Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada*, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark*, Finland, Germany*, Israel*, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand*, Portugal*, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden*, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania*, Venezuela and Zambia: draft resolution

Elimination of violence against women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993,

Recognizing that the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1/ will contribute to the elimination of violence against women and that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women strengthens and complements this process,

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ General Assembly resolution 34/180.

Also welcoming the decision of the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, including its causes and its consequences, 2/

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Measures to Eradicate Violence against Women, 3/ held in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in October 1993,

1. Calls upon all Governments, as well as intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, to take all possible steps to fully implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, to disseminate information on it and to promote its understanding;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, including its causes and consequences; 2/

3. Urges all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of her tasks and duties and to furnish all information requested;

4. Invites the Special Rapporteur to cooperate closely with the Commission on the Status of Women in the discharge of its functions;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports of the Special Rapporteur are brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women as a source of information for its monitoring role and recommendations on policy, and specifically for its review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration, which should be presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur can attend the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and relevant United Nations conferences, especially the Fourth World Conference on Women;

7. Urges the Secretary-General in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, to give publicity to the Rapporteur's work and to disseminate the Rapporteur's findings and conclusions widely;

2/ E/CN.4/1994/L.8/Rev.1.

3/ E/CN.6/1994/4.

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on the activities of the United Nations bodies and institutions concerned with crime prevention with regard to the question of violence against women;

9. Decides to remain seized of the question of violence against women.

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-eighth session
New York, 7-18 March 1994
Agenda item 5

PRIORITY THEMES

Algeria* and China: draft resolution

Women and development

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/174 of 22 December 1992, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 and 1992/53 of 31 July 1992 and Commission resolutions 34/3 of 8 March 1990, 35/7 of 8 March 1991 and 36/5 of 20 March 1992 and 37/6 of 25 March 1993,

Reaffirming the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Convinced that the effective mobilization of women is an essential element in achieving the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Aware that the slow progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies as related to development necessitates that urgent action be taken by all the parties concerned,

Aware also of the need to recognize the importance of the gender perspective in all areas of social, economic and political life in order to achieve a balanced division of roles,

Welcoming the Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, 3/ in which the Conference stressed the importance of the integration and full participation of women as both agents and beneficiaries in the development process,

Reaffirming that the full integration of women in development, both as agents and beneficiaries, should concern all sectors of society,

Convinced that improving the distribution between both sexes of the tasks related to productive and reproductive functions is an essential strategy for sustainable development and has to be reflected in the implementation of concrete national development policies, programmes and projects,

Further convinced that an enabling international economic environment and the international community have fundamental roles in the creation of conditions that allow women to achieve full integration in development,

Deeply concerned about the slow progress in the improvement of the situation of women in developing countries and the worsening situation of women in some areas, particularly in the least developed countries,

Expressing special concern about women living in extreme poverty in rural as well as in urban areas,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the fact that poor rural women contribute to all aspects of the well-being of rural families and account for more than half the food production of developing countries, they are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged group in society,

Welcoming the holding of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992 and the adoption by the Summit of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, 4/

Aware of the need for women, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to be empowered to define their own means of development, as well as of the need to guarantee them access to such services as education, health, maternity and child care and credit so that they may be fully integrated into the development process,

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3/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

4/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

Keeping in mind the fact that the impact of structural adjustment policies, adverse terms of trade and the growing foreign debt on developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, continues to have negative effects on efforts for the full integration of women in development,

1. Urges Governments to foster women's full and equal participation in the elaboration, planning, execution and evaluation of development policies and projects so that they can be agents and beneficiaries of development;

2. Also urges Governments to adopt policies to promote economic development that will ensure the full integration of women's needs and concerns;

3. Further urges Governments to include gender perspectives in all the guidelines for economic and social policies and to increase their capacities and capabilities in gender-responsive and gender-sensitive planning of development programmes;

4. Urges Governments to foster and ensure access of women to income-generating activities as a means of stimulating economic independence, a basic requirement for women's self-sufficiency;

5. Urges Governments to identify their own quantitative and qualitative national targets in such fields as education and training, employment, income generation, health, and women in public life with a view to the full integration of women in development, and to commit adequate resources to women and development programmes;

6. Recommends that Governments create and strengthen national machinery for the advancement of women, placing it at the highest level, and that they ensure the greater involvement of such machinery in the political, economic and social planning processes by providing it with adequate resources and qualified personnel;

7. Also recommends that Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international donor agencies and non-governmental organizations further develop gender-oriented research in all development areas, particularly by the involvement of national research institutes, and promote specific measures in the field of training in gender analysis programmes for development decision makers and the relevant staff involved in policy and programme areas, in addition to implementation processes;

8. Calls upon Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international financial and other relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations to promote measures to stimulate the economies of developing countries and the full integration of women in the development process and to provide financial services on the basis of equal opportunity for women and men, while avoiding adverse effects on their well-being, particularly that of vulnerable groups;

9. Calls upon donor Governments and international financial institutions to provide adequate and timely support for the efforts of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in reducing the negative

effects of the external debt burden, structural adjustment policies and adverse terms of trade, with a view to integrating women in mainstream development;

10. Urges all States to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed in the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women 4/ and all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals of the Geneva Declaration in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider the adoption of specific measures, within their respective fields of competence, with a view to meeting the special needs of rural women in the light of the Geneva Declaration;

11. Appeals to Governments, donor countries, international organizations and appropriate national and international financial institutions to make greater efforts to support the establishment of cooperative rural banks and other development-related institutions to assist women, particularly those engaged in small- and medium-scale productive activities;

12. Requests Member States to make provision for specific training programmes for women in rural and urban areas aimed at developing their technical and management skills, and to give financial support, fellowships, or both, for training women, particularly those from developing countries, in science, technology, agriculture and management;

13. Calls upon Governments, donor countries and relevant international organizations to take further coordinated measures to facilitate the access of women, particularly poor rural and urban women, to basic education and health and child-care facilities;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, in reporting on the implementation of the present resolution in his biennial monitoring report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to include policy and programme recommendations on the basis of gender analysis;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the issues of women and development and of the integration of women in development programmes are an integral part of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

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Agenda item 4

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina*, Australia, Canada*, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark*, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway* and Turkey*: draft resolution

Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1/ is a key international human rights instrument for the promotion of equality between women and men,

Welcoming the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and thirty-one,

Noting with deep concern that the Convention is still one of the human rights instruments with a large number of reservations, many of which run contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, despite the fact that some States parties have withdrawn their reservations to it,

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

Also noting the suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in accordance with its mandate, as demonstrated most recently by the Committee at its thirteenth session, at which the Committee adopted suggestion No. 6 on the International Conference on Population and Development and general recommendation No. 21 relating to articles 9, 15 and 16 of the Convention as its contribution to the International Year of the Family,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in June 1993, in which the Conference stipulated that the human rights of women and of the girl-child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Recalling also that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Conference recommended the adoption of new procedures to strengthen implementation of the commitment to women's equality and human rights, including a call upon the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to quickly examine the possibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992,

Recalling its resolution 1993/14 of 27 July 1993 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to support for the Committee,

Noting suggestion No. 5, on the feasibility of preparing an optional protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session,

Noting that the workload of the Committee has increased because of the growing number of States parties to the Convention, and that the annual session of the Committee is still the shortest of all the annual sessions of the human rights treaty bodies,

Welcoming the Committee's efforts to further improve its working methods by adopting concluding observations containing specific suggestions and recommendations,

1. Supports the request made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twelfth session for additional meeting time, with adequate support from the Secretariat, so as to allow the Committee to meet once a year for three weeks for its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions 3/ and

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2/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38), para. 622.

recommends that the request for additional meeting time, made by the Committee at its thirteenth session, be considered within the existing level of budgetary resources;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the working methods of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, including a comparison with the working situation of other treaty bodies;

3. Requests the General Assembly, in the light of the above report, to review the working situation of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, and in this context also to consider the possibility of amending article 20 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so as to allow for sufficient meeting time for the Committee;

4. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall examine at its thirty-ninth session, in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and taking into account the results of any expert meeting on this question that may be convened prior to that session, the feasibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

5. Notes with appreciation suggestion No. 6 on the International Conference on Population and Development and general recommendation No. 21 on equality in marriage and family relations, adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session, both of which were transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session, and encourages the Committee to continue its work in adopting detailed general recommendations;

6. Once again urges all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

7. Encourages States to consider limiting the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible, and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

8. Requests States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to review regularly their reservations, with a view to withdrawing them expeditiously so that the Convention may be fully implemented;

9. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to publicize widely the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

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Agenda item 4

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Algeria*: draft resolution

Palestinian women

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, 1/

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children,

Recalling also its resolution 1993/15 of 27 July 1993 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 3/ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ E/CN.6/1994/6.

2/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

Welcoming the signing, on 13 September 1993, at Washington, D.C., of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel, 4/

Deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration of all aspects of the situation of the Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned about the severe consequences of the massacre carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinian worshippers in Al-Ibrahimi mosque in Al-Khalil (Hebron) on 25 February 1994 for the situation of Palestinian women and their families,

1. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation constitutes the basic obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the national development plan of their society;

2. Considers the illegal Israeli policy of settlements, displacement of the Palestinian people, denial of Palestinian family reunification and closure and isolation of Palestinian communities to be a violation of the inalienable rights of Palestinian women guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 5/ the Hague Conventions and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949; 6/

3. Calls upon Israel to facilitate immediately the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties in the occupied Palestinian territory, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

4. Urges Member States, international financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial assistance to Palestinian women for the creation of projects responding to their needs, especially during the transitional period;

5. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children;

4/ A/48/486-S/26560.

5/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

6/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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New York, 7-18 March 1994
Agenda item 7

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft provisional agenda and documentation

1. Election of officers.

   (Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council)

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   (Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII); rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council)

3. Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace:

   (Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 44/171, 45/129, 46/8, 48/108; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/20, 1990/9, 1990/12, 1990/15; Commission resolutions 35/4, 36/8, 37/7, 38/___)

   (a) Preparatory activities at the national, regional and international levels;

   (b) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

   (c) Reports from regional conferences and other international conferences;

   (d) Draft rules of procedure;

(e) Draft Platform for Action;

(f) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing the second draft of the Platform for Action

Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the regional conferences and other international conferences

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft rules of procedure

4. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

(Legislative authority: Programme planning regulation 4.12; General Assembly resolutions 45/125, 45/239 C, 46/100, 47/93, 48/105; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/60, 1989/30, 1989/105, 1993/9, 1993/16)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing updated information on the status of women in the Secretariat

Note by the Secretariat on programme proposals for the biennium 1996-1997

5. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 34/180, 44/77, 45/124, 45/129, 46/79, 47/94, 47/95, 48/108; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/27, 1990/8, 1992/15, 1992/16, 1992/17, 1993/13, 1993/14, 1993/15)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on women and children under apartheid

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of confidential and non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

6. Priority themes:

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15)

(a) Equality: Equality in economic decision-making;

(b) Development: Promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills;

(c) Peace: Women in international decision-making.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on equality in economic decision-making

Report of the Secretary-General on promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills

Report of the Secretary-General on women in international decision-making

7. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

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Thirty-eighth session
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Agenda item 5

PRIORITY THEMES

Germany*, Greece*, Mali*, Papua New Guinea*, Switzerland*
and United States of America: draft resolution

Gender equality in population programmes

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ which set equality, development and peace as the general objectives and goals for promoting the advancement of women, the World Conference on Education for All, 2/ the United Nations Conference on Environment and

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ Final report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990.

Development, 3/ the World Summit for Children, 4/ the World Conference on Human Rights, 5/ and looking forward to the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 6/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which reaffirms, on the basis of equality between women and men, a woman's right to accessible and adequate health care and the widest range of family planning services, as well as equal access to education at all levels,

Emphasizing that the full participation of both women and men in all aspects of productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household, is required and in the interest of women, men and children,

Emphasizing that the empowerment of women and the improvement of their status - particularly with respect to education, health, economic opportunity and decision-making, and full political participation and representation - are highly important ends in themselves and are essential to reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and achieving fair and non-coercive population policies that respect women's rights as human rights,

Noting with great concern that rapid population growth makes sustainable development difficult in many developing countries and affects the quality of life of the people,

Recognizing the sovereign right of each country to establish its own population policies and programmes responding to country-specific needs, while mindful that national action or inaction in population may have effects that extend beyond national boundaries,

Recognizing that, because gender discrimination often begins at the earliest stages of life, equal attention to the needs of the girl child is a necessary first step to ensuring that women realize their full potential and become equal partners in sustainable development,

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3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I, vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum).

4/ See A/45/625.

5/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Parts I and II)).

6/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Emphasizing that the aim of family planning programmes must be to establish the widest possible freedom of choice for women in matters of reproduction,

Emphasizing that, as women bear the full burden of child-bearing and are primarily responsible for child-rearing, no woman should be coerced or forced into any decision on child-bearing,

1. Reaffirms the goal of universal access to safe motherhood, to family planning and reproductive health services and facilities for those who wish to use them, to assistance in preventing and overcoming infertility, and to full and timely information about all aspects of reproductive health and sexuality;

2. Reaffirms, as stated in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 7/ that men and women have, on the basis of equality, the same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise those rights;

3. Encourages Governments and non-governmental organizations to promote and encourage the equal participation of women and men in all areas of family responsibility, so that both women and men can balance their domestic and public responsibilities;

4. Urges Governments, intergovernmental bodies and, where appropriate, non-governmental organizations to adopt and implement population and development policies that enhance social and economic equality; include popular participation; incorporate women equally in all levels of planning, decision-making and implementation; address the reproductive health needs of women and men of all ages; respect and protect women's reproductive rights as human rights; and, where levels are still high, significantly reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates;

5. Urges Governments to make greater efforts to implement and enforce national laws and international conventions protecting women from all types of discrimination, including implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

6. Encourages Governments to acknowledge and implement the recommendations regarding women's rights contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights;

7. Also encourages Governments to review, legislate if they have not already done so, enforce and provide public information concerning the minimum age of consent and minimum age at marriage, paying attention to the importance of empowering women so that they may choose education or employment as alternatives to early marriage;

7/ General Assembly resolution 34/180.

8. Urges Governments, where required, to adopt, implement and enforce laws to eliminate infanticide; female foeticide; preferential treatment of boys to the detriment of girls' education, health, self-esteem and quality of life; forced marriages; child labour; child trafficking resulting in child slavery and prostitution; and other forms of child abuse;

9. Urges Governments to prohibit female genital mutilation and other traditional practices which diminish the dignity and integrity of women and, in collaboration with local and regional non-governmental organizations and local communities, to act vigorously to create awareness among concerned populations of the urgent need to eliminate those practices and provide the support services necessary to mitigate their harmful effects;

10. Urges Governments to empower women and close the gender gap as soon as possible by:

(a) Encouraging women's participation and representation at all levels of the political process in each community and society;

(b) Promoting the fulfilment of women's potential through education and development of skills, paying urgent attention to the elimination of illiteracy among adult women and to the importance of education of the girl child;

(c) Eliminating legal, political, social and cultural barriers against women, and assisting women to establish and realize their rights, particularly those that relate to sexual and reproductive health;

(d) Adopting concrete measures to improve women's ability to earn income, achieve economic self-reliance, inherit, own and dispose of property and land, and have access to credit on the basis of equality with men without discrimination;

11. Urges Governments to ensure the widest and earliest possible access by girls and women to secondary and higher education and vocational training, including taking positive actions to increase the school retention rates of girls, with the aim of reducing the current disparities between boys and girls by the year 2000;

12. Urges all countries in a position to do so and appropriate international organizations to provide assistance to developing countries for family planning services, including contraceptives, information and education;

13. Encourages Governments and local and international non-governmental organizations to launch information and education campaigns to change the public perception of the value of the girl child, generate social awareness of the short- and long-term poverty and socio-economic consequences of discrimination against girls and of early motherhood, and establish innovative mechanisms for encouraging protection of and respect for the rights of the girl child;

14. Encourages Governments to review or propose legislation to eliminate all forms of coercion and discrimination in policies and practices related to

employment, marriage, divorce, inheritance, child-bearing, child-rearing, and custody of children;

15. Encourages Governments to develop educational curricula that eliminate gender stereotypes and reflect a commitment to full gender equality;

16. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to encourage men to be involved, as partners and fathers, in safe and responsible parenthood and family planning, emphasizing men's shared responsibilities, inter alia, in the areas of prenatal and maternal health, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, prevention of unwanted and high-risk pregnancies, child care, education, health and nutrition and the promotion of the equal value of children of both sexes;

17. Urges Governments to take steps so that children receive appropriate financial support from parents by, inter alia, enforcing child support laws;

18. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to develop an integrated approach to the special nutritional, reproductive health, educational and social needs of girls and young women;

19. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to involve women in the design of reproductive health care programmes and in the planning, management, delivery and evaluation of services, and to take positive steps to train and employ more women at all levels of the health care delivery system;

20. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to support women in their aim to expand and strengthen campaigns to make women aware of the full range of their legal rights, including their rights within the family, and to help women organize to achieve those rights;

21. Urges the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development to focus on the key role of the empowerment of women in population stabilization and sustainable economic development.